

Lesson:5

presidential election

It's the [presidential election](#) season in the United States and the topic is quite popular in classes around the country. Discussing the presidential election can cover a wide range of topics beyond just the two candidates. For example, you might discuss and explain the U.S. electoral college and process of collecting and counting votes. Advanced level classes might find the topic especially interesting as they can bring in observations and comparisons from their own electoral systems. Here are some suggestions and short activities that you can use in class to focus on the election. I've put them in the order in which I'd present the exercises in class in order to build up vocabulary. However, each exercise could certainly be done as a standalone activity.

Definition Match-Up

Match the key vocabulary concerning elections to the definition.

Terms

1. attackads
2. candidate
3. debate
4. delegate
5. Electoral College
6. electoral vote
7. party convention
8. party platform
9. political party
10. popular vote
11. presidential nominee
12. primary election
13. registered voter
14. slogan
15. sound bite
16. stump speech
17. swing state

- 18.third party
- 19.to elect
- 20.to nominate
- 21.voter turnout
- 22.votingbooth

Definitions

- choose who will be the next president
- a state which does not typically vote either Republican or Democrat but 'swings' back and forth between the parties
- a short phrase which is used to encourage voters to support a candidate
- a political party which is neither Republican nor Democrat
- the person who runs for president
- the person who is chosen by the party to run for president
- an election to decide who will be chosen by the party
- a representative from a state who can vote at the primary convention
- a gathering of a political party to choose a candidate and vote on other issues important to the party
- a [standard speech](#) that is used repeatedly during a campaign
- advertising which is aggressive and tries to hurt the other candidate
- a short phrase which sums up an opinion or fact and is repeated throughout the media
- how many people vote in the election, usually expressed in a percentage
- the group of state representatives which cast the electoral vote
- a vote by someone in the Electoral College for the vote
- the number of people who vote for the president

Conversation Questions

Here are some questions to get the conversation going. These questions use the vocabulary in the match up to help start using the new vocabulary actively.

- Which parties have candidates?
- Who are the nominees?
- Have you seen a presidential debate?
- How do presidential elections differ from the US election in your country?
- Do voters have to register in your country?
- What's voter turnout like in your country?

- Do you understand the difference between the Electoral college and the popular vote?
- What do you think are the main "planks" in each party's platform?
- Which candidate appeals to you? Why?